

The Village of Northfield

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

November 13, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nehez at 7:30 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Nehez.

ROLL CALL was read by Law Director Brad Bryan. The following officials were present: Councilpersons Nick Magistrelli, Keith Czerr, Jenn Domzalski, Alan Hipps, Renell Noack, and Gary Vojtush. Also present for the meeting were Law Director Brad Bryan, Engineer Rich Wasosky, Police Chief John Zolgus, Fire Chief Jason Buss, and Service Director Jason Walters.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the Minutes from the October 9, 2019 Council Meeting was made by Ms. Noack and seconded by Ms. Domzalski. All were in favor of approval; none were opposed. The October 9, 2019 Minutes were approved.

A motion to approve the Minutes from the October 16, 2019 Special Council Meeting was made by Ms. Noack and seconded by Ms. Domzalski. All were in favor of approval; none were opposed. The October 16, 2019 Minutes were approved.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, MEMORIALS, AND REMONSTRANCES:

Bob Davet of the Northfield Fire Fighters Association discussed the toy drive partnership with Dawn's Early Light. The drive is for families dealing with addiction. Children are put into foster care until their families can get their lives back in order. Mr. Davet passed out flyers and mentioned the information is already posted on the Fire Department Facebook site.

PUBLIC REPRIMAND AS A RESULT OF COUNCIL'S OCTOBER 16, 2019 CENSURE ACTION TAKEN AGAINST COUNCILPERSON KEITH CZERR:

Mr. Bryan read the Public Reprimand required to be presented at the next Regular Council Meeting after the passage of a Censure Action by Village Charter Section 4.15 as a result of Council's October 16, 2019 Censure Action taken against Councilperson Keith Czerr.

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS:

Mayor Jesse Nehez – No report.

Finance Director, Tricia Ingrassia – In Ms. Ingrassia's absence, Mr. Bryan stated Ms. Ingrassia requested a motion for acknowledgement of receipt of the reconciliation and financial statements provided to Council for review.

A motion for acknowledgement was made by Ms. Domzalski and seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. All were in favor of the motion; none opposed. The motion was approved.

Engineer, Rich Wasosky – Mr. Wasosky reported he attended the Cuyahoga South Water semi-annual meeting required by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District that was held in Walton Hills. Mr. Wasosky mentioned in 2019, the Village used a portion of its Sewer District community cost share funds for the Houghton Road drainage project, which is now complete. Mr. Wasosky recommended for 2020, the Village should use the money for the Coventry Road Project drainage work.

Mr. Wasosky stated he received a letter last week related to the Houghton Road Reconstruction and State Route 8 Traffic Signal Project. The signal contractor and Union Metal have now given a date of December 26th when the poles will be shipped from the factory to another business to be painted. That process will take approximately two weeks. Mr. Wasosky estimates the earliest the Village will see the new traffic poles is the end of January 2020.

Mr. Wasosky stated he participated in the hosting of the Village planting workshop with Summit County Soil and Water that was held on October 16, 2019 at Village Hall. Mayor Nehez, Service Department workers, and a representative of Summit County Soil and Water also attended. Mr. Wasosky mentioned the Summit County Soil and Water people were very impressed with Mayor Nehez, and they would like him to speak at one of their seminars.

The Houghton Road and Vorderman Road Asphalt Milling and Resurfacing Project is now complete. Mr. Wasosky plans on performing a final inspection at the end of November once the snow melts to ensure there wasn't any debris left behind on the tree lawns.

Mr. Wasosky is continuing his work on the Coventry plans. He wanted to inform all the residents who inquired about the dots marked on their driveways that they will naturally wear away after time. He was marking random driveways for elevation testing.

Mr. Wasosky reported the Dollar General preliminary plans have been submitted and reviewed. The Planning Commission met on October 16, 2019 to approve the preliminary site plan. Mr. Wasosky submitted his comments on October 16, and on October 21st provided another set of comments relating to the applicable Overlay District regulations. Mr. Wasosky mentioned the Village will need to grant six variances for the plan that was submitted: (1) Front Yard Setback; (2) Side Yard Setback; (3) Number of Parking Spaces; (4) Eliminating Handicap Space and Landscaping on the Interior of the Parking Lot; (5) Approving one 2 ½ " diameter tree along Northfield Road instead of two trees; and (6) Permit the enclosed waste facility to be located along the west side of the building rather than the rear of the building. Mr. Hipps commented there is an issue with granting all six variances, since only three of the six were presented at the Planning Commission Meeting. Mr. Hipps confirmed that the following three variances were granted by the Commission: (1) Front Yard Setback, 44' minimum in lieu of 50'; (2) Side Yard Setback, 15' in lieu of 20'; and (3) Number of Parking Spaces, 53 down to 30 spaces. It was determined that the three variances approved by the Planning Commission could be approved by Council at this time, and the fourth through sixth variances would be considered when the final plans are reviewed by the Planning Commission. Mr. Hipps stated Dollar General would rather have less parking space to asphalt, since the spaces are not necessary, and it would be more aesthetically appealing for the residents to see more green space. Mr. Hipps also mentioned the front yard of Dollar General will be on Lowry rather than facing Northfield Road. Mr. Bryan commented there will be a fence requirement as well as landscaping requirements when the final plans are approved. A motion to approve the three variances approved by the Planning Commission was made by Mr. Vojtush and seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. All were in favor of approval; none were opposed. The motion was adopted.

Law Director, Brad Bryan – Mr. Bryan alerted Council the second Council Meetings in the next two months will fall on or near holidays. The next scheduled meeting is set to occur Thanksgiving Eve, November 27, 2019. Next month's scheduled second meeting is set to occur on Christmas day, December 25th. Council suggested the meetings be set on the prior Mondays, November 25, 2019 and December 23, 2019. A motion to approve the updated meeting dates

was made by Ms. Domzalski and seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. All were in favor of changing the scheduled dates; none were opposed. The motion was adopted.

Mr. Bryan reported the Village received approval to use the NOPEC energy efficiency grant money the Village was awarded for 2018 and 2019 for the Service Department roof project, which has already been completed. Mr. Bryan anticipates the \$23,506 in grant money should be paid to the Village by the end of November.

Mr. Bryan requested an executive session at the end of the meeting.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Police Department, Chief John Zolcus – (report attached)

Fire Department, Chief Jason Buss – Chief Buss reported he had a follow up meeting with Baker Bednar, the architects working on the Fire Station renovation. Chief Buss stated they are moving into the design and development phase of planning, and things are moving along smoothly. He is hoping bids for construction will be received sometime after the beginning of the year, and the renovation can begin in early spring of 2020 once the weather breaks. Chief Buss was provided with an updated drawing of the outside of the building. He stated the original building was built with bricks and clay tiles that looked like bricks. Years ago, the building was washed with an acid bath that destroyed the mortar and brick on the bay part of the building. Chief Buss stated the color of the brick cannot be matched, so the suggestion is to paint the building once the renovation is complete.

Chief Buss confirmed the Santa gift giving delivery is scheduled for December 15, 2019. He mentioned there is more information posted on Facebook concerning the gift drop off location, etc. Chief Buss stated last year they started on the East side of town, so this year, they will be starting on the West side.

Service Department, Jason Walters – Mr. Walters reported the Service Department made it through its first snow storm of the season. He received quite a few calls complaining that mailboxes were knocked down or ruined and the Service workers were driving too fast while plowing the streets. Mr. Walters assured everyone that his workers are not speeding. They are driving between 18 and 26 mph. He talked about the way the Service Department plows snow. They start with the middle of the road, push snow to the curbs, and then push the snow up and over onto the yards. Mr. Walters stated the mailboxes will be replaced if they are hit by one of their trucks but if they fall over because they are hit by plowed snow, they will not be replaced. If they are not to code, the Village is not required to replace or fix a mailbox. Mr. Walters stated they will never say no at first. They will assess the situation before saying they will or won't replace or fix something. Mr. Walters reported the big salt truck is currently out of commission. He thanked his workers for their hard work and long hours that have been put into making the Village safe.

Mr. Walters stressed his concern about the backhoe being down once again. He stated this is an occurrence that happens at least once a month. Mr. Walters will look into this matter. He has already talked with Southeast Equipment about it and feels this machinery might qualify as a lemon under the lemon law.

Mr. Walters stated this year is coming to an end, and the preliminary budget needs to get presented soon. He asked everyone to brainstorm and come up with ideas or projects that need to be fit into the budget that he and his Department may not have considered. Mr. Walters stated a

lot of ideas have been tossed around, but they need to be planned for and approved in the budget in order to be fulfilled.

REPORTS OF THE MUNICIPAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Planning Commission, Mr. Hipps - No additional report.

Recreation Board, Mayor Nehez – Mayor Nehez praised Ms. Noack and her guests for a wonderful job on the Veteran’s Day Program. He advised the next Recreation Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday December 4, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at Council Chambers.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES:

Finance Committee, Mr. Magistrelli – No Report.

Roads/Public Works, Ms. Domzalski – No Report.

Health and Welfare – No Report.

Wages and Working Conditions, Mr. Vojtush – No Report.

Fire and Safety, Ms. Noack – No Report.

Buildings and Grounds, Mr. Hipps – Mr. Hipps asked to schedule a work session or committee meeting, which anyone can attend, to meet with Snider Recreation to discuss improvements to the parks. That meeting was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on November 25, 2019 before the next Regular Council Meeting.

LEGISLATION:

2019-68 – An Emergency Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into Agreements for Employee Dental & Vision Coverage (First Reading). Mr. Bryan reminded Council that the Village is in the middle of a two year agreement for employee medical insurance, and there are no issues with that coverage at this time. Under that agreement, there is no payment due for either this month or next month. This legislation involves renewal for dental and vision coverage. The dental coverage rates are the same as last year, and the vision coverage involves a very small increase, which will cost the Village approximately \$150 more per year in total. A motion to suspend the three reading rule was made by Mr. Magistrelli and seconded by Mr. Vojtush. All were in favor; none opposed. The motion passed. A motion for passage was made by Mr. Vojtush and seconded by Ms. Noack. All were in favor; none were opposed. The Resolution was adopted.

2019-69 – An Emergency Resolution Authorizing Certain Amendments to the 2019 Appropriation Resolution and Transferring Items Already Appropriated in that Resolution (First Reading). A motion to suspend the three reading rule was made by Mr. Magistrelli and seconded by Ms. Noack. All were in favor; none opposed. The motion passed. A motion for passage was made by Ms. Noack and seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. All were in favor; none were opposed. The Resolution was adopted.

2019-70 – An Emergency Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Road Salt from Cannon Salt & Supply and Cleveland Central Enterprises (First Reading). Mr. Bryan mentioned the Village wanted the flexibility of having two vendors, and the price from each vendor is almost identical. Mr. Walters informed Council that Cleveland Central Enterprises would be the primary supplier and Cannon Salt & Supply would be the backup. A motion to suspend the three reading rule was made by Ms. Domzalski and seconded by Mr. Vojtush. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion was adopted. A motion for passage was made by Mr. Vojtush and seconded by Ms. Domzalski. All were in favor; none were opposed. The Resolution was adopted.

2019-71 – An Emergency Resolution Authorizing the Director of Finance to Deposit Funds into the Village’s Unclaimed Fund (First Reading). A motion to suspend the three reading rule was made by Mr. Vojtush and seconded by Ms. Domzalski. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion was adopted. A motion for passage was made by Ms. Noack and seconded by Ms. Domzalski. All were in favor; none were opposed. The Resolution was adopted.

OLD BUSINESS; NEW BUSINESS; ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Magistrelli commented on this year’s Halloween party. He claimed it was the best party yet, even though it was windy. Mr. Magistrelli mentioned he received a lot of great compliments from the residents concerning the party. Chief Zolcus paid recognition to Gary Miller, who put together the video work that was shown at the Halloween party. Chief Zolcus stated if anyone is interested, the work is posted on the Village’s website.

Mr. Vojtush discussed the toy drive flyer mentioned during the beginning of the Council meeting. He suggested the Village donate \$250 to Dawn’s Early Light. A motion to authorize the donation was made by Mr. Vojtush and seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion was adopted.

Mr. Bryan suggested that Council go into executive session at this time. He stated if anyone wanted to stick around after Council came out of executive session, they were more than welcome to stay, but Council was not expected to conduct any business after the executive session except to adjourn. A motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment and compensation of a public employee was made by Mr. Hipps and seconded by Ms. Domzalski.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Czerr, yes; Ms. Noack, yes; Mr. Vojtush, yes; Mr. Magistrelli, yes; Mr. Hipps, yes; Ms. Domzalski, yes.

The motion was adopted. Council went into executive session at 8:15 p.m.

A motion to come out of executive session was made by Mr. Magistrelli and seconded by Ms. Domzalski.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Czerr, yes; Ms. Noack, yes; Mr. Vojtush, yes; Mr. Magistrelli, yes; Mr. Hipps, yes; Ms. Domzalski, yes.

Council came out of executive session at 8:54 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Domzalski and seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. All were in favor; none were opposed. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Clerk of Council